

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in this application.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A low power radio frequency transceiver arranged to form a network of communicating low power radio frequency transceivers comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting packets of data; and

means for controlling the transmitter to transmit a series of messages of a first type outside the network of transceivers,

~~characterised by~~ means for punctuating the series of messages of a first type with messages of a second type, transmitted within the network of transceivers, for maintaining ~~synchronisation~~ synchronization.

2. (ORIGINAL) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 1 arranged to operate as a master of the radio network of slave transceivers.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network of transceivers uses a first frequency hopping sequence.

4. (ORIGINAL) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 3 wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 1 wherein the messages of the second type are broadcast.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for punctuating, punctuates the series of messages of a first type with a message of a second type periodically.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 1 wherein the messages of the second type do not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 1 wherein the messages of the second type comprise a ~~synchronisation~~

synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 1 wherein messages of the second type are transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of maintaining synchronisation in a network of communicating low power radio frequency transceivers comprising a master transceiver and at least one slave transceiver ~~characterised by the step of,~~  
the method comprising:

punctuating a series of messages of a first type transmitted by the master transceiver outside the network of transceivers, with messages of a second type transmitted within the network of communicating transceivers for maintaining synchronisation synchronization.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage medium for data, comprising computer code for providing, in a low power radio frequency transceiver, means for punctuating transmission of a series of messages of a first type comprising a first ~~synchronisation~~ synchronization word independent of the identity of the low power radio frequency transceiver, with messages of a second type comprising a ~~synchronisation~~ second synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the low power radio frequency transceiver.

12. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the network of transceivers uses a first frequency hopping sequence.

13. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.

14. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the messages of the second type are broadcast.

15. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the series of messages of a

first type are punctuated with a message of a second type periodically.

16. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the messages of the second type do not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.

17. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the messages of the second type comprise a synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

18. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein messages of the second type are transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

19. (NEW) A low power radio frequency transceiver arranged to form a network of communicating low power radio frequency transceivers comprising:

    a transmitter for transmitting packets of data;

    a controller for controlling the transmitter to transmit a series of messages of a first type outside the network of transceivers, and for punctuating the series of messages of a first type with messages of a second type, transmitted within the network of transceivers, for maintaining synchronization.

20. (NEW) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 19 arranged to operate as a master of the radio network of slave transceivers.

21. (NEW) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 19, wherein the network of transceivers uses a first frequency hopping sequence.

22. (NEW) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 21 wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.

23. (NEW) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 19, wherein the messages of the second type are broadcast.

24. (NEW) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 19, wherein the controller punctuates the series of messages of a first type with a message of a second type periodically.

25. (NEW) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 19 wherein the messages of the second type do not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.

26. (NEW) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 19, wherein the messages of the second type comprise a synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

27. (NEW) A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 19, wherein messages of the second type are transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

28. (NEW) A computer program product comprising program instructions for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 10.